

BOARD OF HEALTH
Bangs Community Center: Room 101
Minutes

May 26, 2011

BOH Members: David Ahlfeld, Jennifer Brown, Maria Bulzacchelli, Nancy Gilbert

BOH Member Excused: David Kaufman

Staff: Julie Federman, Pamela Field-Sadler

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

I. Review & Receive

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2011 – **Approved as amended**

II. New Business

A. Geothermal Well Construction Applications (2)

1. 26 Wildflower Drive

Charlotte Jackson - 26 Wildflower Drive, and Michael Simonelli of Terraclime Geothermal in attendance.

The Board of Health reviewed an application for a Geothermal Well Construction Permit for the property at 26 Wildflower Drive. Mr. Simonelli explained the application is for a proposed water-based, closed-loop ground source system with two 350" bores with u-loops. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection guidelines were followed in determining the set-backs. This property is on the Town water system. Assistant Sanitarian Javeria Mir has reviewed the proposed well design plan and is of the opinion that the design meets the requirements of the *Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells*.

Motion: Ms. Bulzacchelli made the motion, seconded by Ms. Gilbert, to approve the Geothermal Well Construction Permit application for the property located at 26 Wildflower Drive as submitted.

Vote: Unanimous

2. 340 Shays Street

Michael Simonelli of Terraclime Geothermal in attendance.

The Board of Health reviewed an application for a Geothermal Well Construction Permit for the property at 340 Shays Street. Mr. Simonelli explained the application is for a proposed water-based, closed-loop ground source system with two 330" bores with u-loops. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection guidelines were followed in determining the set-backs. This property is on the Town water system. Assistant Sanitarian Javeria Mir has reviewed the proposed well design plan and is of the opinion that the design meets the requirements of the *Amherst Board of Health Regulations for Private Wells*.

Motion: Ms. Bulzacchelli made the motion, seconded by Ms. Gilbert, to approve the Geothermal Well Construction Permit application for the property located at 340 Shays Street as submitted.

Vote: Unanimous

B. Board of Health Appointments to Expire

Two members of the Board of Health (BOH) have terms which will expire on June 30, 2011. Ms. Federman has consulted with the Town Manager's office and Select Board Member Diana Stein, and explained a letter is usually sent to those individuals whose appointments are expiring in order to determine their interest in being re-appointed. Ms. Federman will notify Ms. Stein to send the letters to the affected BOH members. Chairman Ahlfeld reminded everyone he will begin a one year Sabbatical in September 2011. Ms. Gilbert agreed to serve as the back-up Chairperson for the BOH on those occasions Chairman Ahlfeld will be away.

III. Old Business

A. Annual Report

The Board of Health (BOH) reviewed the final draft of the FY10 Annual Report submitted for publication by the Health Department and noted several grammatical errors in Section II. Ms. Field-Sadler will contact the Assistant to the Town Manager to request the corrections be made. The BOH agreed the report is informative and expressed appreciation to the Health Department staff for their work.

IV. Director's Report

A. Five College Table Top Drill

An Emergency Communication Drill will take place on June 7, 2011 at Amherst College from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ms. Gilbert is planning to attend the drill. The suggestion was made that a summary of the event be presented at the next Board of Health meeting.

B. DIG Meetings

Participants in the District Incentive Grant (DIG) have begun the planning process of a potential county wide Health District which serves Hampshire County. Presently, Regional Group meetings take place once per month, and smaller Working Group meetings are twice per month. Ms. Federman explained the DIG participants are reaching out to local public officials and encouraged the Board of Health (BOH) members to take the opportunity to attend a meeting to gain a greater understanding of the planning work taking place. Ms. Federman will forward a meeting calendar to the BOH, and let the BOH know she is unable to attend the July 5, 2011 meeting. The Hampshire County of Governments has dedicated a space on their website to provide information regarding the planning process; Ms. Federman will forward the link to this website to the BOH. Ms. Federman explained the deadline for submitting an application for project implementation funds has been delayed allowing more time to make a decision regarding participation in the next project phase.

C. Solar Energy Project

Town Meeting passed Article 24 which authorizes the Town Manager to enter into a contract for up to 30 years to lease the Old Landfill property for the purpose of installing and operating a solar array on site; however, extensive state and local permits will be required before the project can proceed. Public concern for the project has arisen; the integrity of the site has been questioned, as well as concern for the possible risk of threat to the public's health. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has determined, based on site inspections and monitoring data regarding the Town's water submitted by the Town over 20 years, that the site is safe. Addressing any public health concerns regarding the project falls under the purview of the DEP. The Board of Health (BOH) agreed that the DEP has experts to review this type of data and is the right agency to continue to monitor this project. The BOH noted some public concerns could be the result of the misinterpretation of reports and information, and agreed it would be good to correct any misinterpretation of the facts. If called upon, the BOH could be an additional group to review project data, as well as play a role in assuring the public that presented information is accurate. The BOH also noted the solar project has potential benefits for the Town. Ms. Federman will continue to update the BOH regarding this proposed project.

D. Keeping of Livestock

Town Meeting has approved amendments to the Zoning Bylaws which allows for the keeping of up to twelve livestock or poultry in residential areas of Amherst under certain provisions. All livestock and poultry keepers will be required to register with the Health Department and allow inspections of their facilities by the Animal Welfare Officer. A State Animal Inspector located in Amherst is able to complete any animal testing if necessary. The details of the registration process need to be finalized; Ms. Federman envisions a one-time registration fee of \$10.00. Ms. Federman pointed out raising rabbits for eating is a national trend; currently, rabbit meat is not United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Food Protection Program is working to develop regulations regarding rabbit meat, and will complete a voluntary inspection upon request. Locally grown eggs can be sold provided they are not in cartons marked "USDA Approved." Outreach opportunities will be planned to provide education regarding safe practice in keeping of livestock and poultry. Chairman Ahlfeld recognized and thanked Ms. Federman for doing a great job representing the Board of Health at the May 25th session of Town Meeting.

Ms. Federman was asked about the failed proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw which pertains to residential parking. Ms. Federman explained there are zoning bylaws which are not being enforced. Town Meeting has approved the creation of a Code Enforcement Officer position which is intended to help ensure the enforcement of town requirements such as those relating to parking.

- V. Schedule Next Board of Health Meeting/Agenda Closing Date**
A. The next Board of Health (BOH) meeting will be June 23, 2011.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

Pamela Field-Sadler, Management Assistant
Approved: 7/28/2011

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Meeting Document List

The following documents were available to the Board of Health during their scheduled meeting.
These documents are available for review at the:

Amherst Health Department, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA 01002

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes: April 21, 2011 (draft)
- Geothermal Well Construction Application (2)
 1. 26 Wildflower Drive
 2. 340 Shays Street
- FY10 Annual Report - Final